

what's

APRIL 2011

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Michael Kirwan

Vol. 5 | Issue 7A
art: 52nd Street Boys
artist: M. Kirwan

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Our mission at **What's Happening Magazine** is to create a publication that unites the Florida GLBT community. By becoming a voice in the community, we will create opportunity and security for gay and gay friendly businesses.

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what's
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A NOVEL FROM THE PUBLISHERS



HOMO ART HISTORY

Archeologists say that much can be derived about a civilization of ancient people and cultures from the artwork that they leave behind. If our gay community was going to be judged by future societies by their artwork, what do you think their assessment of us would be? Would they assume that we were a uniform and leather clad tribe of über men that went around engaging in sexual acts every chance we got with huge smiles on our faces and hyper exaggerated penises? Well, if they happened upon a treasure trove of **Tom of Finland** pieces that is probably what they would come away thinking. Hopefully, what it would say about us as a people was that we were a diverse culture, that although youth and sex obsessed at times, preferred making love to engaging in strife of any kind.

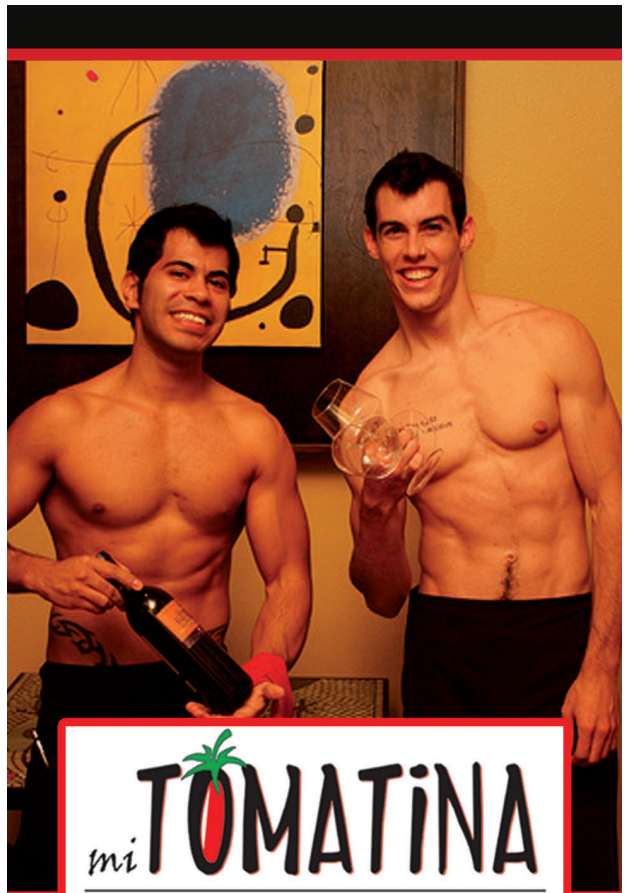
Homo erotic art has existed in many forms, in just about every ancient culture known to man. In fact, there were some cultures that actually exalted it as the purest and highest form of human relationship that could exist between two people. If you **Google** "ancient gay art" you will find that every advanced civilization from the **Egyptians** to the **Incas** incorporated some portrayal of homo erotic themes in everything from everyday terracotta basins to decorative mosaics on walls. One can deduce that same-sex relationships were seen as commonplace and just an average fact of life in most of these ancient societies. Wouldn't it be nice if we could somehow get it back there once again. We believe that we are well on our way.

In this issue, we are celebrating the artwork of many individuals that are currently adding to the world of art from within our community. First, we have an artist that we have been fans of for many years. As many of you know by now, we are both originally from **Miami** and remember visiting **PRIDE** festivals down south and falling in love with the amazing, funny and erotic works of **Michael Kirwan**. It just so happens that we reconnected with him last year during our annual **NUDE Party** held at **Fairvilla Megastore** in **July**. One of **Mr. Kirwan's** art representatives was there to enjoy the evenings festivities and was generous enough to donate two of **Mr. Kirwan's** signed lithographs with proceeds going to local charity **Miracle of Love**. We knew that in our next **Art Issue** we would definitely feature this prolific and talented artist work for our readers to enjoy. We also include the works of local artists **Doug Powell** with his phenomenal **Duzzles** and **Rebecca Rose's** fantastic portraits of gay icons. We hope that you enjoy this edition of **WHM** and send us digital pictures of your own works of arts so that we can feature them on our newly redesigned website located at www.WhatsHappeningMagazine.com.

HAPPY EASTER & PASSOVER!

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The World According to



WANZIE

BY MICHAEL WANZIE

What Ever Happened To The Paint By Numbers Craze?

When I was a kid an entire aisle of the toy store was **Paint By Numbers** kits, but more to the point, adult

(not "adult" as in *porn* but rather with regard to level of difficulty) kits consumed full aisles in the home decor section of every discount department store and notions shop.

Believe it or not the idea for **Paint By Numbers** was actually that of **Leonardo da Vinci** who introduced the concept as a teaching aid for his students.

Purely by coincidence I proudly posses and display a rather large framed **Paint By Numbers** recreation of **The Last Supper**. It hangs directly above the headboard of my bed which may factor into my low percentage of second dates.

It's amazing to consider - but none the less true - that it was not until 1951 that **da Vinci's** teaching method was morphed into a hobby/craft for the masses by a guy named **Dan Robbins**. Within just a few years the **Paint By Numbers** craze had reached its zenith in the **United States** and by 1960 just about every self

respecting middle to lower middle class family had at least one such completed masterpiece framed and displayed somewhere in their home.

In my own childhood home, my dear mother, caught up in the early 60's national obsession for "oriental" decor, decided to give her 20 year old solid oak bedroom suit a coat of black lacquer paint complimented by oriental decals - the kind that came on a sheet of heavy paper you would soak in warm water to loosen the glue to allow the transfer of the decals onto the furniture. A large **Japanese** fan was hung one wall and an oriental lantern hung swag style over a side chair. But the crowning glory of the room makeover was the 3-panel display of **Geisha Girls** which mother herself had spent weeks painting by number.

They still make and sell the kits, but unless they are kid oriented you have to go to specialty craft stores or shop on line to get the more challenging intricate kits.

Vintage **Paint By Numbers** kits, both unopened and completed paintings, are big business on **eBay**. So if you come across any when your **Aunt Martha** dies don't just *toss em* aside; they might be worth something.

And, if like me you have no artistic abilities what so ever but like the idea of putting paintbrush to canvas, why not consider getting a **Paint By Numbers** kit for your very own. It'll be our little secret - unless of course you actually sign it and hang it up.



Brigette's April Shower

I am so glad winter is finally over and **Spring** is here. I just love it when things start *popping-up* all over! My good friend **April Fresh** inspired this months drink recipe. She told me that if you water your garden with this concoction, things will start blooming in no time! So, get out your *hoes* and let's mix up a big batch of this *drinky-poo!* Remember, *golden showers* bring **May** flowers! **Enjoy!**

INGREDIENTS:

- .05 Oz. Southern Comfort
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- .05 Oz. Brandy
- .05 Oz. Peach Schnapps
- 1 Oz. Of Cranberry Juice

PREPARATION:

First, take all your ingredients out of the cabana *minibar* and check to see if the gardener has been pinching any. Next, while watching the yard boy trim your bushes, mix all the drink ingredients in a large pitcher. Pour over ice in your favorite tropical drink glass trimmed with orange slices and cherries. Finally, serve yourself and the yard boy a tall refressing glass. It is sure to get his *weed-whacker* up and running!

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photo by K. Reynolds

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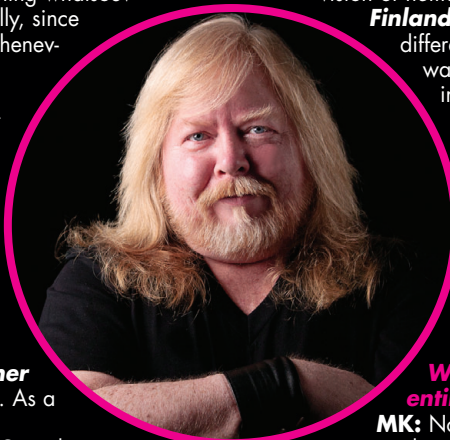


WHO: Are you a self-taught or a classically trained artist? How long have you been painting?

MK: I've had no formal (or informal) training whatsoever in art techniques. That's a bummer really, since I've almost had to "reinvent the wheel" whenever I attempt to do something innovative. I don't paint. As a matter of fact, I've only ever done one painting, and it turned out badly. I use ink and illustrative watercolor or markers to get the specific effect I desire in my drawings.

WHO: Who or what would you say were your biggest influences to your artwork?

MK: It's hard to say. I began drawing when I was four or five years old, so my main formative influence would be **Warner Brothers** and **Max Fleischer** cartoons. As a teenager, I spent a lot of time at the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** in **NYC**, and was very interested in both classical realism and the Impressionists. I saw my first **Tom of Finland** image when I was 13 or so, and



was very excited by the subject matter and quality of the draftsmanship. Years later, when I decided to go public with my own vision of *homoerotic*, I looked back on the **Tom of Finland** artwork and opted to go in a completely

different direction. The queer world I inhabited wasn't filled with *muscled demigods* frolicking in a safe **Utopia**. My experience was with flawed, real, *cock-obsessed* characters living in gritty, intrusive, oft times squalid environments. Instead of Tom's gleeful sexual abandon, I wanted to represent the guilt, shame, euphoria and especially the hurried randomness of our trysts. As an adult I've come to admire **Cadmus**, **Leyendecker**, **Gorey** and **Beardsley**.

WHO: Do you work with models or entirely from imagination?

MK: No models. It's all out of my head. Guys I've seen in the streets, on busses, in bars - just everyday people who might like a quick blowjob behind the garbage containers.

WHO: How do you describe your style?

MK: Cartoon/Reality. I'm trying to convey an existing paradigm in an exaggerated, enjoyable manner.

WHO: What makes your work "art" and not "porn"?

MK: Who knows? I don't know why it can't be both. My explicit impetus is to elicit *hard-ons*. I hope it's "art" so folks will revisit the artwork and find other ideas, nuances and embedded social commentary, but if they only *perk-off* to it, I've done my job.

WHO: You have a great sense of humor in your pieces. Why is that such an important element in your work?

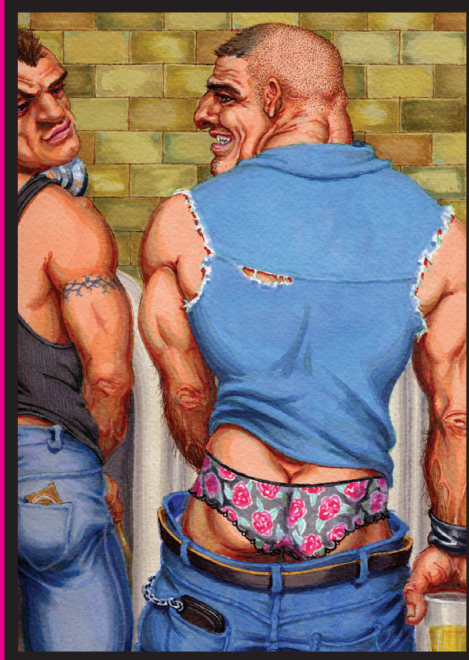
MK: Sex is always funny. If anyone who's had someone else's balls in their mouth doesn't have a sense of humor about their sexuality, then I feel very sorry for them.

WHO: You work with the Tom of Finland Foundation. Can you tell us a bit about that?

MK: I've participated in the **Tom of Finland Foundation's** art fair for 16 years or so, and spent a bit longer than a year as the "Artist in Residence" (after **Hurricane Wilma** eviscerated my decade-long stay in **Miami Beach**). There I was able to concentrate on my craft and serve as a roving ad hoc ambassador for the **ToFF** (as well as picking up a **Hall of Fame** trophy!). It's an important organization. The idea of preserving and promoting our own collective and very specific history is a vital cause for all *queers*. Our art speaks of who we are, how we connect, and what we understand about ourselves. Bar posters, magazines, design and illustration - these were how we identified each other before and during the Liberation struggle. To let any group's emerging historical record be forgotten or ignored is a tragedy. Our origins are the basis of our being.

WHO: Where can someone buy or commission one of your amazing pieces?

MK: Go to www.KirwanArts.com and contact me. There are finished pieces available, and I'm always willing to discuss commissions, although not of portraiture. Nobody has ever enjoyed how I interpret them on paper, so I won't go there. I'm always interested in finding out what people's fantasies are. No need to be shy with me. Nothing offends me sexually, as I've seen it all. I think it is very satisfying for someone who appreciates my art to see their particular fantasy or fetish realized in an original work of art hanging on their wall. It certainly can be a great *icebreaker*.

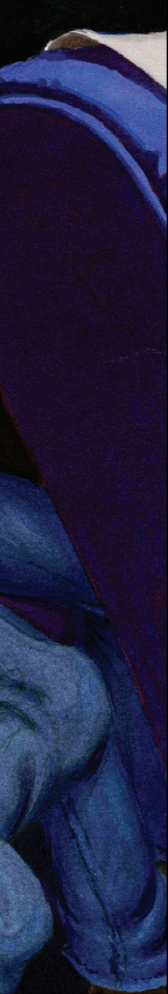




WHO: What would you like your legacy to the world of Gay Art History to be?

MK: Sheesh - to be remembered at all would be nice. I'd like to be credited for bringing aboard more psychological depth and ethic/generational diversity. I'm not the first (Rex and Domino come to mind), but I think it's relevant that I try to put my characters into a recognizable context indicating that the sex isn't a separate function of who we are but an integral facet of our overall existence. I like to portray the subtle emotional power plays that occur during a bout of sexuality, and the fleeting, tenuous nature of physical pleasure. Actually, most of my oeuvre deals not with the sex itself, but the moments just before when either party could still conclusively reject the proposition. It's that possibility that drives the tension in the narrative. I hope I'm remembered as one of the very few erotic artists who had a successful run in both straight and gay publications, that I appreciated the humor of the situations, that I celebrated and gave normal homos a visual presence in my depictions, and that I was responsible for millions of gallons of cum being ejaculated around the world.





I can paint a face. **Lord** knows I've been beating my own mug with **MAC** for more years than I can remember, but I don't really consider that the artform that I'm most proficient in. My true love is interior decorating. Every time I walk into a new space and see perfectly clean, white walls it is all I can do to contain my excitement. You think I'm good with a mascara wand? That's because you've never seen me flinging a paint roller around! *(Insert joke about putting on my make-up with a roller here.)*

Anyone that has ever been invited into one of the homes that I've owned in **Orlando** knows that every last little detail has been thought out. Even the placement of where everything is in my home is deliberate. In fact, my friends love to mess with me by slightly setting ajar a vase or a figurine in my home and waiting to see how long it would be until I notice it. I can't help it, it is some sort of wired **OCD** driven sixth sense that I have that requires order, harmony and symmetry in my home.

I always find it hysterical when people visit my home for the first time and you can see the shock in their face. I think most people have the preconceive notion that there is going to be feather boas, sequins costumes and wigs laying around the entire house! The truth is, I try to keep my *stage closet* in my dressing rooms at work and not a home. It helps me to sperate the two worlds. I had a friend tell me once that my house looks like **Brie VanDecamp** from **Desperate Housewives** lives there and not **Danielle Hunter**. I never know how to take that.

It is my feeling that your home should be a reflection of your soul. Afterall, it is the place that you seek refuge in when done with a long day at work. It should be a place where peace and serenity reigns. Your home should be filled with things that make you smile and feel safe. I love working with others and finding out what their style is and then helping them reflect in the things around them.

Recently, I've had the opportunity to take my interior decorating skills to the next level. Mostly, I've been given chances to decorate friends new homes or rooms. I've always wanted my very own retail store that I could fill with wonderful curiosities for the home. Low and behold, after year of praying for this chance to happen, my bosses **Eddie** and **Nick** (of **Funky Monkey fame**) have given me the opportunity to see this dream come true! Recently, we unveiled the project that I've been working day and night for the last 3 months - **The Funky Monkey VAULT!** I've had to call upon every last skill as a decorator, manager and business woman to see this all come to pass. It has not been easy and I don't mind telling you that I'm pretty damn proud of myself. I invite you to come and see the fruits of my labor soon and tell me what you think. This has honestly been an incredibly fulfilling experience and I hope that everyone reading this article gets the chance to see their own creative pursuit come to life. I'm so grateful that it has happened for me.



Tranny TALES

By Danielle Hunter

photo by T. Thomas



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SASSY Advice

Dear Sassy
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my dogs long hair tangle free?
Sincerely,
Pet Lover

Dear **Pet Lover**,
This one is easy for me, as I have a long
haired dog myself. I suggest using **Paul
Mitchell** pet grooming line of products to
keep your dog's coat beautiful and
healthy. The line has a wonderful, easy
to use, detangler that you simply
spray in, wait a brief moment, and
then brush through. There is no
need to rinse the product out and
its made with all natural ingre-
dients so that your pet's skin
and health will be safe!

Dear Sassy,

I am on a quest to find the perfect pair of
jeans, but have no clue where to begin. I am a
bit top heavy and am not sure what style or cut
is appropriate for me. Please help?
Lost and confused,
Bootilicious

Dear **Bootilicious**,

Finding the right pair of jeans can be difficult, but
never fear...Sassy's here! Being a bit top heavy, you need
to select a pair of jeans with the proper cut that will flatter
your shape the most. I suggest that you go with a boot cut
or slightly flared leg to visually balance your top weight.
This cut is flattering on most shapes and is a classic that
won't go out of style. **LEVI Jeans** have a wonderful fit,
and are made for girls of all shapes. Most major depart-
ment stores carry this line. Also, some department stores
offer a personal shopper to help you make the right choice
for your shape. Take your time and find the right fit, you
want to feel sexy and comfortable.

Dear Sassy,

My husband and I are considering purchas-
ing some original artwork for our home. I love
oil paintings and black and white photography,
and my husband loves sculptures. Where is a
reputable and affordable place to buy art that
will gain in value over the years? We know that
you are a fine artist so we would appreciate
your advice.
Love,
Art Newbies

Dear **Art Newbies**,

I am so delighted that you are interested in adding origi-
nal art to your home. When purchasing art, I suggest that
you do your homework first. Art is subjective, so go with
pieces that you are drawn to. Start by attending art fairs in
the spring and summer time. There, you will find seasoned
professionals that are selected by a committee to showcase
their artwork. These art festivals are a great place to meet
the artist and find out more about their work and vision.
Prices are often negotiable at these events. Often, if you
don't like anything that you see, but love the style of the
artist, you can commission a piece to be done. You also
may want to check out the local colleges. This is a great
way to find some real deals on art, and be able to help out
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Latin DIVA Show at 12:30 featuring: **Lisa Lane, Sexia Lopez, Selena, Shantell D Marco, Maya Andrews & Guests**

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Show @ Midnight Hosted By **Angelica Sanchez & Pledge Cast**

DJ Joanie Spinning The Hottest In *House, Dance, Anthems & More*

FUEGO **FRIDAYS**

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Show @ 10:30PM & 12:30PM Featuring: **Shantell D Marco, Lisa Lane, Selena, Maya Andrews & Guests**

UNITY **SATURDAYS**

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REBECCA *Rose*



One can't walk into **Central Florida** newest hotspot **Mr. Sisters** without being overwhelmed by the amazing artwork that encompasses every inch of the enormous nightclub. From the baby grand piano with the hot pink and black zebra perched on top of it to the stunning crystal chandelier that hovers over your head upon coming through the door the place is just lousy with beautiful details! Although, almost everyone zeros in immediately on the monochromatic masterpieces of **Rebecca Rose** that are abundant about the club. But, here is *the kicker* - they are all painted on the tables that you spill your nachos on and dribble your drinks across! *That's right!* All of the tables at **Mr. Sister's** are expertly painted with amazing portraits of gay icons by **Miss Rose**. It is a practically a *freakin'* art museum!

Months before the establishment opened, **Rebecca** contacted co-owner **Brian Humphries** about contributing art to the project. She submitted some of her black and white record paintings (*actually painted on vinyl LPs*) she had done of **Bon Jovi**, **Michael Jackson** and **Madonna**. **Brian** immediately got a taste of her astounding talent and responded with his trademark "Yahtzee!" **Rebecca** was honored and considers her work at **Mr. Sister's** to be her artistic opus which never seems to ever be completed as she continues to unveil more and more table top pieces regularly.

Rebecca started her artistic career at 19 as a sculptor. Her artistic point of view was recognized and awarded a full art scholarship to attend **Northern Arizona University**. Her college experience culminated with a BFA, Dean's List of Art and a thesis student show in fall of 2001 at **Beasley Gallery** in **Flagstaff, AZ**. In recent years, her works have been privately owned and commissioned throughout the **U.S.**, **Canada**, **Sweeden**, **Italy** and **England**.

Rebecca's acrylic work is visibly influenced by **Andy Warhol**, **Shepard Fairey**, **Bruce Collins** and printmaking graphics as seen in vintage *propaganda* posters. Much of **Rebecca's** work has been shown at varying charity benefits hosted at the **Parliament House** for **Hope and Help Of Orlando** and other deserving LGBT causes.

To find out more about Rebecca Rose's work or to commission your own original piece visit www.rebeccadownin.com



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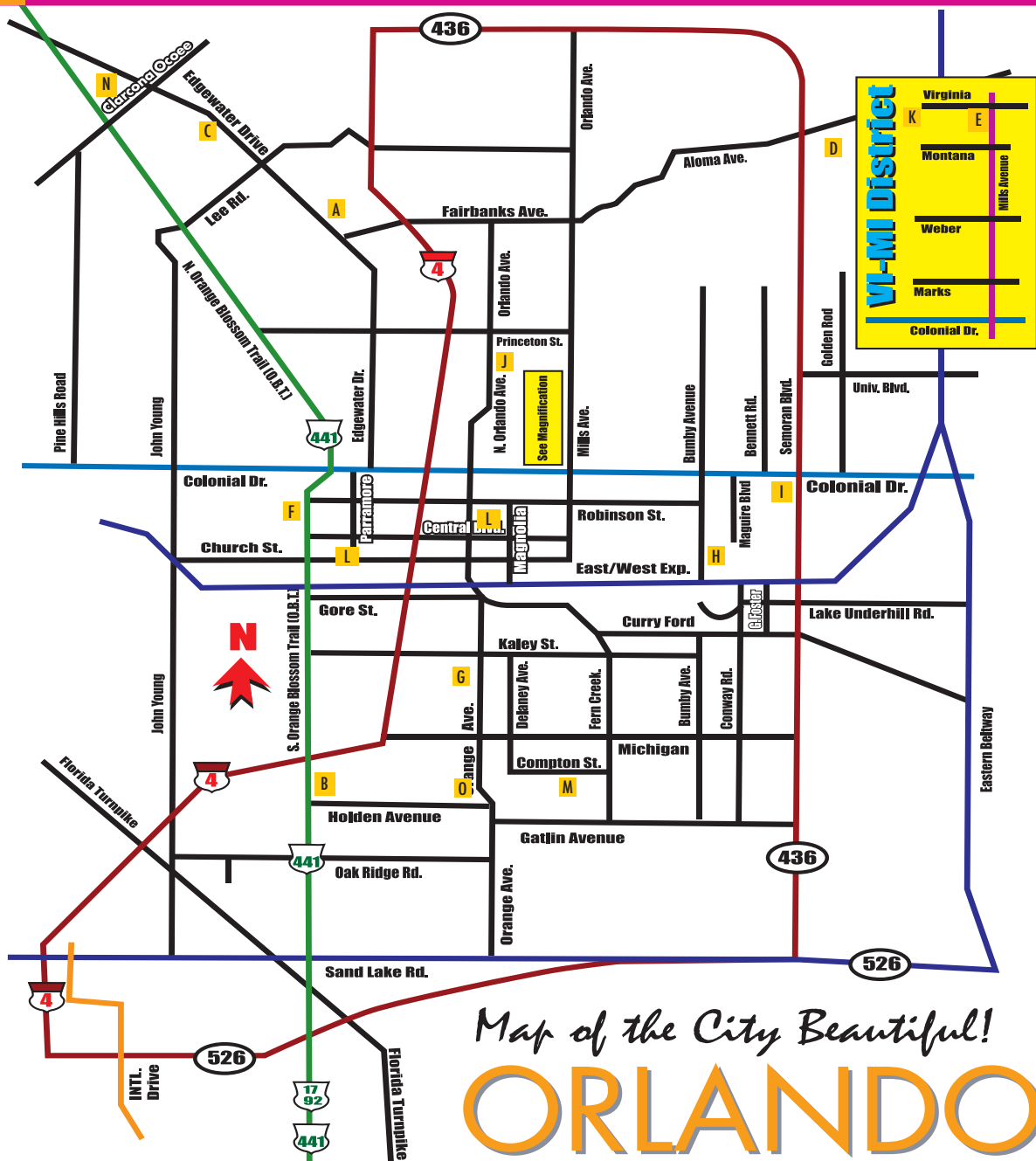
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Gays are “artsy.” I think we all agree some more than others maybe, but in general, a truth. By far, my favorite is the *Broadway Gay*.

It's no secret gays are drawn to musicals like moths to flame (*no pun intended*). Broadway Gays are sublime creatures that quote lines, croon ballads at karaoke and reproduce exact choreography at dinner parties. In **NYC** or not, these particular gays are your true theater companions.

One of my most treasured **Broadway** memories is the night I went to see **The Drowsy Chaparone** with our own **Michael Wanzie**! We ran into each other at the **TKTS** (1/2 Price Tickets) booth in **Times Square**, and he insisted we see this fabulous show. Of course I agreed, as **Wanzie** is *THE Broadway Authority*. **The Drowsy Chaparone** is as *old-school Broadway* and **GAY** as you can get in the 21st Century. Grandiose sets, over the top numbers and costumes to drool over. We even shared a specialty cocktail at top of the **Marriott Marquis** in the revolving bar. But in true **Wanzie** fashion, we had a comedic episode when the **Ladies Room** was out of order. He marched right into the men's room and said, “We’re all theater people, and we all get along so I’m bringing my girlfriend in to use the facilities.” I did and when I came out he’d become the attendant and had a line of girls going in and out.

Because we are savvy theater patrons, we bought our tickets as singles to have the best seats possible. We were probably about 50 seats away from each other and in between us were the most comatose, catatonic, tour bus riders from **Iowa** I’ve ever encountered. They laughed at nothing.

They didn’t get one joke. This particular production even had **Jo Anne Worley** from **Laugh-In** (if you’re under 35, **YouTube** her!), but not one peep.

I even checked to see if some of them were breathing. **Wanzie** thought perhaps they didn’t speak **English** and were **Russian Beet Farmers** or something. However, **Wanzie** and I laughed enough for all of those *dead-beats*, and I know I received more than one “what’s she on” look. We could actually hear each other’s laugh from across the theater. At one point **Wanzie** even had a personalized laugh dialogue going with the main actor, **John Glover**.

We topped off the night with a *pre-fix* dinner menu at an Italian restaurant on the walk home. This is one of the top theater experiences of my life, and I want **Michael** to know how much this meant to me. I encourage every *straight girl* to do something *artsy* with her gays. I guarantee it will always be a happy and gay memory!

STRAIGHT GIRL *in a Gay World!*

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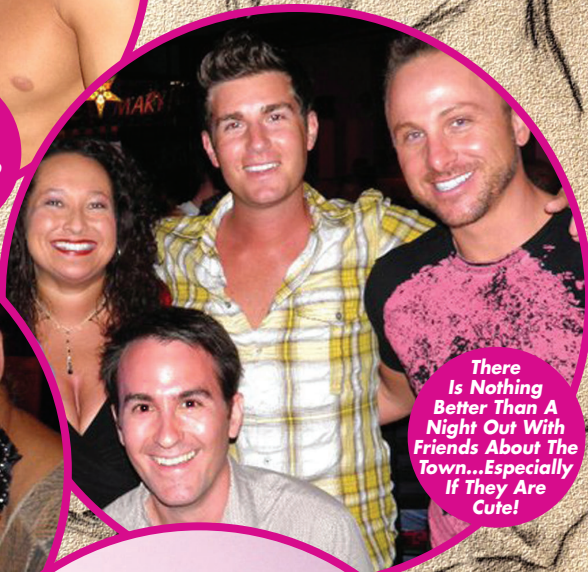
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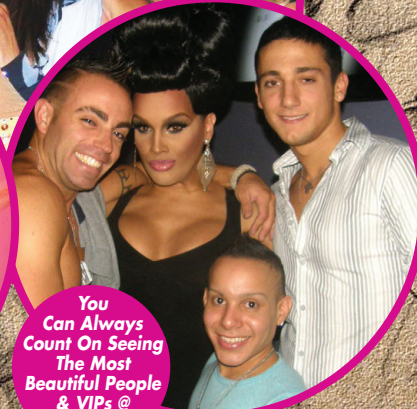
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The Importance Of Little Joe DALLESANDRO

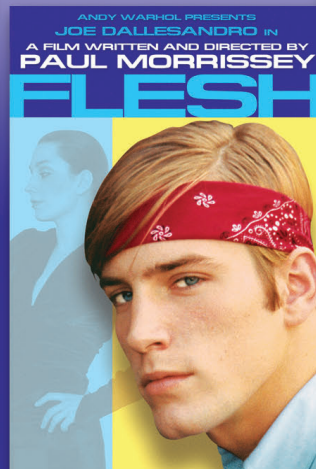
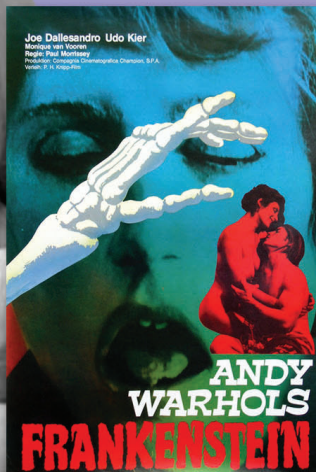
One of the 10 most beautiful men **Scavullo** said he ever photographed. The "**Little Joe**" of **Lou Reed's** *Walk On The Wild Side*. The crotch on the *Sticky Fingers* album cover. The only guy at the party willing to return a punch from **Norman Mailer**. The *naked guy* in those **Andy Warhol** movies who for years was his muse. Afterall, every great artist needs one. *Right?*

At 18, he was an unlikely pioneer, the first film actor to be overtly worshipped as a nude sex symbol. As to the young man himself, he couldn't have cared less. He was just doing his job. Clothed or unclothed didn't seem to bother him. "*Besides, who the hell would see these movies anyway?*" he was quoted once as saying.

Joe Dallesandro was born in **Florida** in 1948 to teenaged parents. After a difficult childhood he moved to **New York** where he became a fixture at the artist enclave of **Warhol's Factory**. **Warhol** saw the raw potential in the smoldering young hustler and cast him in some of his most controversial 60's art films - **Frankenstein**, **Trash** and **Flesh** (to name a few) But, he's more than just a body. If that were his only appeal, his legacy would be a footnote. **Dallesandro** was an innately charismatic and sincere presence on screen.

Audiences could project their fantasies onto him. They not only wanted him physically, they wanted to take care of him. His empathy driven mostly improvised acting skills in front of the camera was his gift.

Joe Dallesandro is a *cult-classic* waiting to be re-discovered. As the first openly eroticized male sex symbol he liberated the male nude as an object of beauty in the cinema. In the end, he was just a young man comfortable with being himself. A natural. A work of art.



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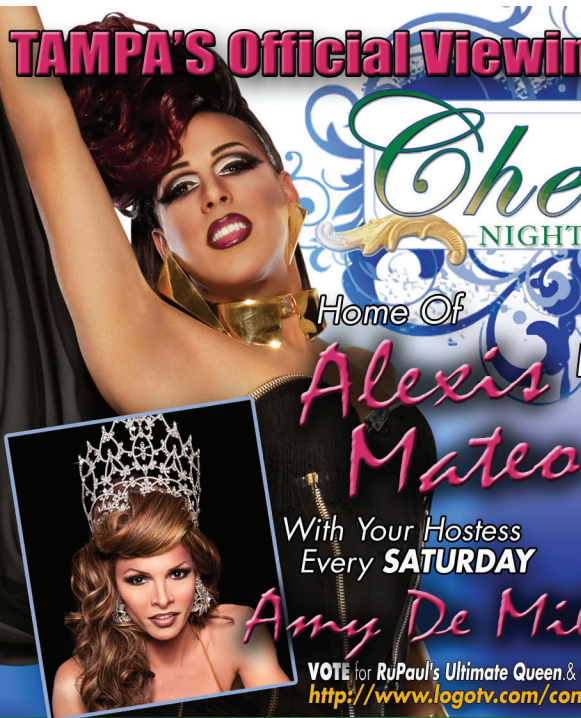
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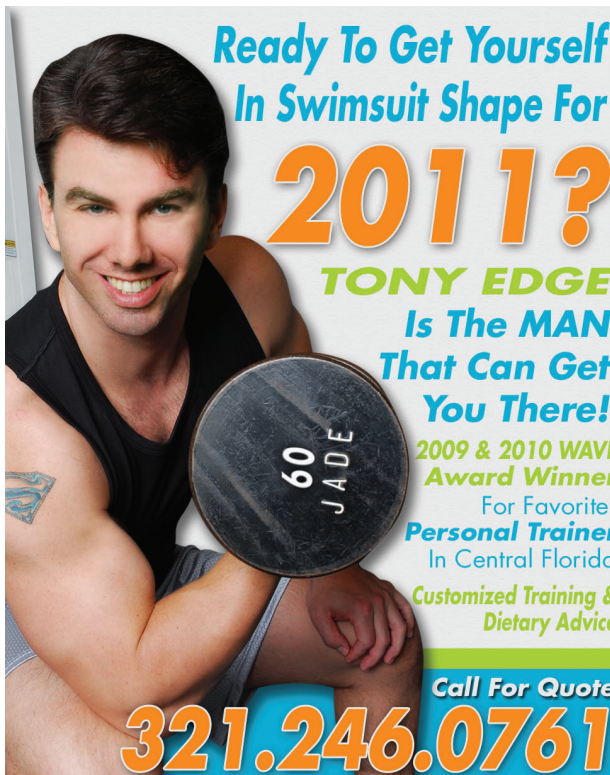
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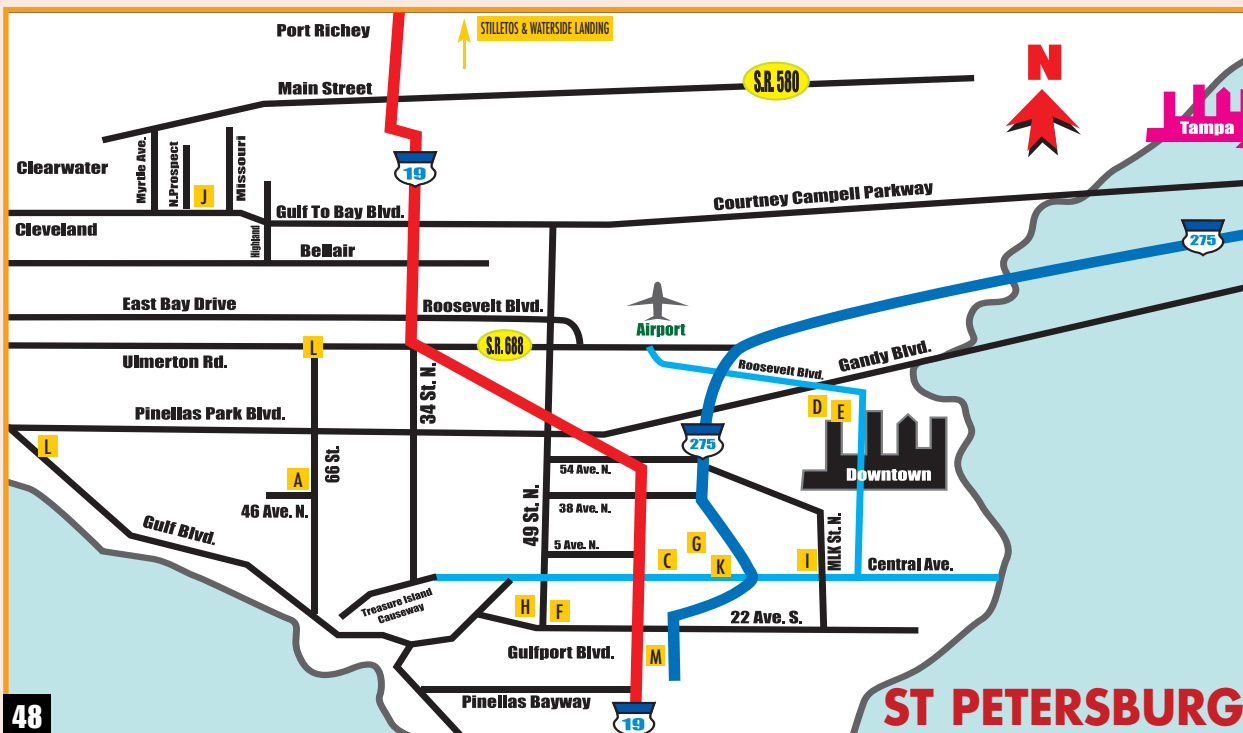
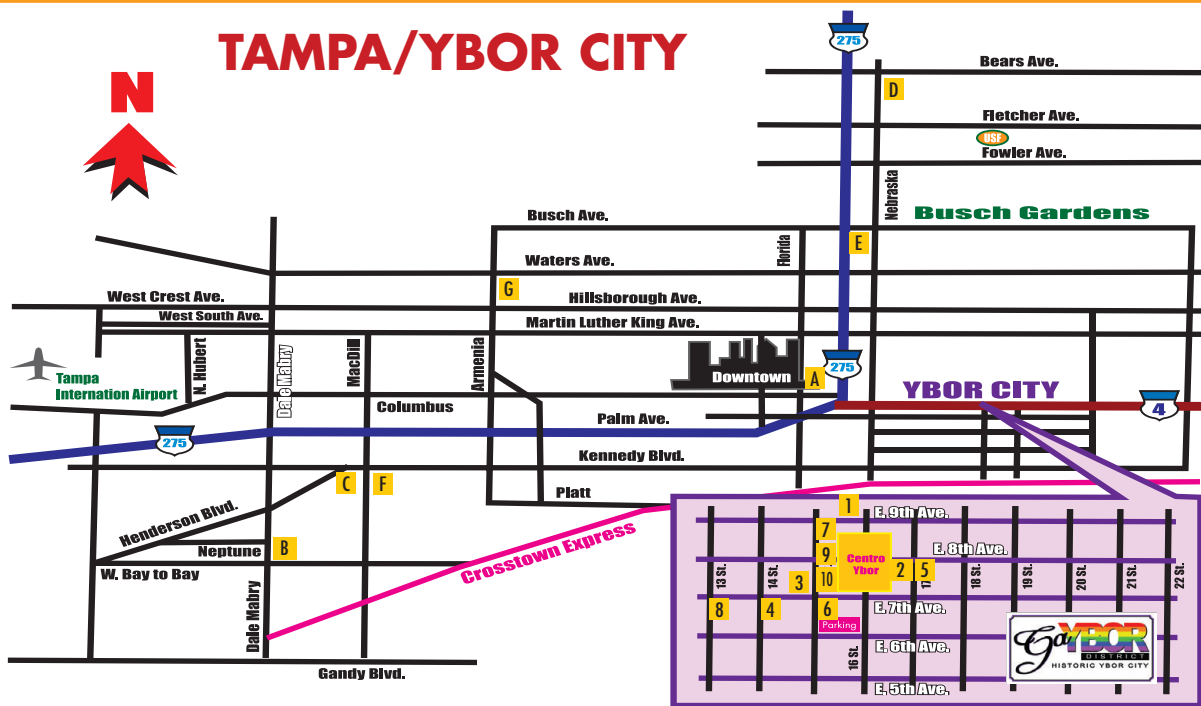
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LET JUSTICE ROLL

By David N. Justice

NOTE: Not only do all of my starting thoughts begin with the word 'I,' but also there are three untrue statements included in the body of this article. Can you guess which ones they are? Happy April Fool's Month, everybody!



I am of the opinion that guys can potentially lose their virginity up to three times (if there are more than three ways that I don't know about, please email me).

I lost my **TOP** virginity when I was sixteen in a hot tub.

I lost my **hetero** virginity at age twenty-two to a girl in **Key West** who was legally blind and whose name I don't remember (I did not know she was blind until after I banged her. She could see shades of light and dark, but the **State of Florida** still declared her legally blind. I later learned that she was most "attracted" to me because I had the loudest voice, and talked more than anyone else in my group of friends. I'm still not sure how that makes me feel).

I live in a cartoon world and have to laugh at myself and remember that these moments are what make life worth living.

I hate when people say, "It's not delivery, it's **DiGiorno's**" because there is an obvious difference, and **DiGiorno** doesn't even offer the possibility of a **HOT** delivery boy coming into my apartment and fulfilling one of my porno fantasies.

I love **P90X** as a workout program, and my goal is to be confident enough in how my body looks so that I can do a shirtless picture in **WHM** one day. I am feeling good about how it's going so far, but may just opt for plastic surgery, instead. If or when I reach that point, I will most likely be the most arrogant person in the world and I apologize in advance.

I am excited that **Outloud Orlando: The Homo Happy Hour** radio show will move to 4 pm on **Tuesdays** on **91.5FM** in **Central Florida** (Check out www.OutloudOrlando.com for more info and to check out the podcasts).

I still enjoy going to church with my parents if only for the hugs I get from the little old ladies who watched me grow up. Nothing beats hugs from the elderly (as long as they don't fall down).

I get "textually" frustrated when people take forever to respond to my text messages.

I was not creative enough to come up with previous thought and totally ripped it off from a **Facebook** post that I saw.

I think that the only thing worse than seeing a disgruntled ex at a business you frequent on a weekly basis is to run into two disgruntled exes at that same business at the same time.

I will not ever hook-up with a porn actor just because they have the same name as me (again).

I was in my first relationship with a guy when I lost my **BOTTOM** virginity at age twenty-four. We both had never bottomed, but decided we would have to take the plunge together. We smuggled a travel-size bottle of **Jack Daniels** into a college performance of **The Vagina Monologues**, and then continued drinking heavily at the bars in **Jacksonville Beach** until a cab driver took us back to my condo. The cabbie told us a racist joke that made us uncomfortable, and when time came finally to do the deed, we played paper, rock, scissors to decide who would go first.

I think a guy is a keeper if he lets me watch as he deletes his **Adam4Adam** profile, and starts putting up pictures of us as his default photo on **Facebook**.

I am a creature of habit, so as always I'll end by telling you to "always swing first, fight good fights and **Let Justice Roll**."



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PUTTING IT TOGETHER PIECE BY PIECE

Duzzle Art

BY DOUG POWELL

Doug Powell, a local **Central Florida** artist, has always had a knack for creating and experimenting with unusual artistic concepts and mediums. With no formal art training, **Doug** has always considered himself "an artist at heart." His current passion is working with discarded puzzles and in turn has found acceptance into the mainstream artworld. **Doug** creates large puzzle mosaics portraits on canvas using thousands of printed puzzle pieces. He does not paint over them and instead uses the colors already on the puzzles in a pointalism style (think **George Seurat**).

The idea of working with puzzles came to him in 2001 when he used puzzle pieces randomly glued to canvas while making "spin art" on a home-made machine. The puzzle pieces offered a deflection for the paint being applied to the spinning canvas. The idea to use them as the medium itself just grew from that experience. He began to collect random boxes of puzzles that he could find at flea markets, yard sales and thrift stores separating all the pieces exclusively by color in plastic baggies.

Doug's specialty is being able to show great detail in the human face right down to eye lashes, lips and other fine facial details. His ability to capture likenesses is uncanny considering his unconventional medium.

Early projects that brought him to the attention of the local art scene included an image inspired by the photography of **Steve McCurry's**, specifically **Afghan Girl**. Soon after, his **Ingrid Bergman** portrait was inspired by another of his artistic influences - **Andy Warhol**.

Doug's work has been on display in the **Scott Laurent Collection** in **Winter Park** as well and **Walt Disney World Enviro Products & Services Expo** in 2007. Recently he has been commissioned by the **Ripley's Museum** in both **NYC** and **St. Augustine** to produce two of his amazing works of art.

To learn more about his work visit www.PuzzleArtMaster.com.

LEFT: Sofia Loren, Statue Of Liberty, Doug Powell With His Puzzles & Lady Gaga.

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Originally I was going to write about the world of comic book art in my article because it's publication was going to coincide with **MegaCon** in **Orlando**. But, when the publishers of **WHM** pulled a fast one on me and switched themes at the last moment I had to scramble. Luckily, I remembered that **Mattel®** had just recently had an incredible, mind-blowing showing at **NYC Toy Fair** earlier this year. And, it just so happens that most of their new product line is very "artsy". So, in the end, it all worked out.

As many of you may now know, **Barbie®** (and doll collecting in general) is not for "little girls" anymore (no matter how much like them we act sometimes). **Mattel®** has really created a lucrative and exciting adult market counting on not just nostalgia but *high-end* design to help boost sales in 2011.

One of the lines I was really blown away by was the **Famous Masterpiece** series. In each of them Barbie is used as a 3D interpretation of the classic works of **Gustav Klimt**, **Vincent Van Gogh** and **Leonardo Da Vinci**. They are beautifully produced with very beautiful *make-up* and elaborate hairdos. A must for the *die-hard* collector and art fans alike.

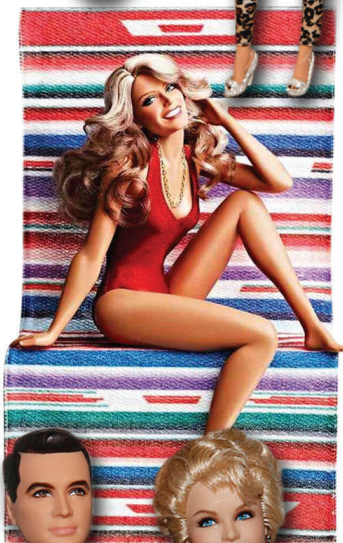
For those of you into a more modern form of art **Mattel®** gives you **TOKIDOKI Barbie®** straight out of the pages of an Japanese *Animé Manga* comic. This sweet doll features fierce *baby-pink* hair, tattoos, sexy leopard tights and a hot *animé* printed purse. This one is sure to be a winner with collectors as it is not only very original but will be moderately priced.

For those of you that can't get enough of the **Pop Culture** series, 2011 will bring you two very special sets. **Farrak Fawcett** will again make a doll debut (first in the 70's by **Mego®**) sporting her iconic red, *one-piece* bathing suit. She will be posed in her classic poster pose.

Finally, **Rock Hudson & Doris Day** will come in a **Pillow Talk®** movie set! This was by far the biggest surprise **Mattel®** had in store at **Toy Fair**. This set is sure to not only make many fans of 60's romantic comedies sit up and take notice, but also gay men all over the world are now going to be able to take home the FIRST OUT GAY character produced by the company. Kudos **Mattel®**!

LEFT: Barbie® Masterpiece Collection: Klimt, Van Gogh & Da Vinci's Mona Lisa are all stunning beautiful works of art.

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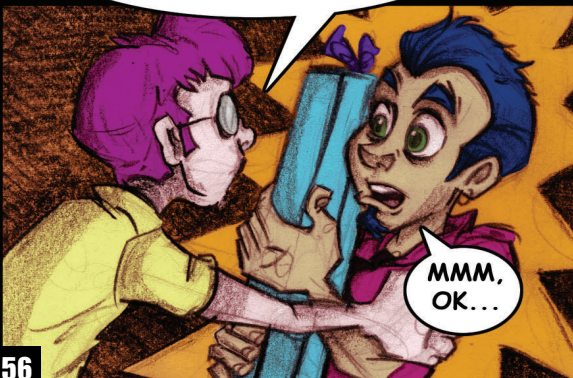
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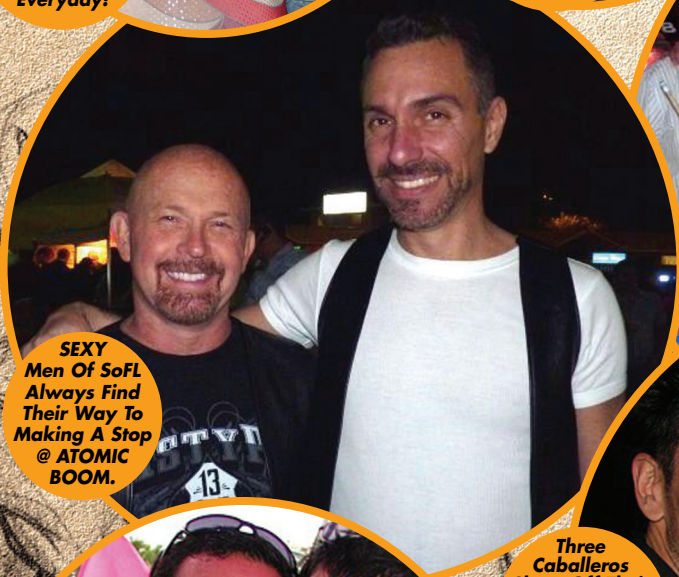
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G-SPOT

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There wouldn't be a **Glenn Douglas Packard** if it weren't for art! I've been a singer, actor, director and a dancer/choreographer. If my body is my canvas, then my legs and feet are my paintbrushes. I eat and breathe art. Most of the people I surround myself around are some sort of artist. One thing I always dreamed of doing was to be a comic book artist. I think I would do **MTV Made** if they could make this happen, but my drawings were never very good. I love gay comic artist **Phil Jimenez**, along with **Clay Mann**, **Jim Cheung** and **Olivier Coipel**, but to my surprise, my favorite artist happens to be right here in my home. My man, **Daniel**, has recently tapped back into his artistic side and discovered a brilliant eye. He is so inspiring with his work. Not only is he *über sexy*, but incredibly talented.

Recently, we got into this "let's watch documentaries on our **Netflix**". I just loved watching **Grey Gardens**, **I Think We're Alone Now**, **For the Bible Tells Me So**, **The September Issue**, **Small Town Gay Bar**, and **Prodigal Son**. If you haven't seen them, watch them! I'd love to hear your feedback about them on **Facebook**.

I know this isn't an issue about documentaries (although I look forward to that issue). The reason I bring this documentary story up is because **Daniel** said I needed to check out a recent movie he saw while I was away working, called **Exit Through the Gift Shop**. It was nominated this year for an **Oscar** for **Best Documentary**. I have to say, this movie had me asking, "Who is **Banksy**?" I was caught up with finding out more about this graffiti artist like **Mr. Brainwash**, **Space Invader** and **Shepard Fairey**. One of the most provocative films about graffiti art ever made. It's the inside story of street art culture and is a revealing account of what happens when fame, money and vandalism collide. The end of the film is both shocking and hilarious. It is simply unbelievable and how it all turns out. It had me *Googling* and searching for **Banksy**-like street art in **Miami**.

For those of you not familiar, **Banksy** began as a freehand graffiti artist 1992 as one of **Bristol's DryBreadZ Crew**, with collaborators **Kato** and **Tes**. He was inspired by local artists and his work was part of the larger **Bristol** underground scene. From the start, he used stencils as elements of his freehand pieces, too. By 2000, he had turned to the art of stencilling after realising how much less time it took to complete a piece. He claims he changed to stencilling while he was stuck hiding from the police for hours under a trash heap. Using stencils allowed him to become more prolific with his art and message leading to him becoming more widely known.

Banksy's stencils feature striking and humorous images occasionally combined with slogans. The message is usually *anti-war*, *anti-capitalist* or *anti-establishment*. Subjects often include rats, apes, policemen, soldiers, children and the elderly. They all represent different metaphors to the artist. Truly fascinating. Check out this film/documentary. I promise won't be disappointed.

Hit me up on **Facebook.com/glennpackard** and let's chat about art and documentaries.





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